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RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/46/L.57

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of draft resolution A/46/L.57, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to implement the restructuring measures contained in section IV of the annex to the draft resolution and report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The annex provides, inter alia, for the following:

(a) Transforming the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its subsidiary body, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, into a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, to be called the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The Commission would be composed of 53 members and meet for two weeks every other year;

(b) Restructuring the Committee on Natural Resources, including the transfer to the new Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development of energy issues that currently fall within its mandate. The restructured Committee on Natural Resources would be composed of 24 Government-nominated experts acting in their personal capacity and would meet for two weeks every other year. The Committee would have two working

groups, one on minerals and one on water resources, which would meet during the Committee's session, when no plenary meetings are held;

(c) Transforming the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy into the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, including the assumption of the new responsibilities related to energy issues that currently fall within the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources. The Committee would be composed of 24 Government-nominated experts acting in their personal capacity and would also meet for two weeks every other year.

2. The above proposals relate to major programme IV, International economic cooperation for development, particularly programmes 12, Global development issues and policies; 17, Science and technology for development; 19, Natural resources; and 20, Energy, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 1/ They also relate to sections 13, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs; 14, Department of Technical Cooperation for Development; and 18, Centre for Science and Technology for Development of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/

B. Modification of the approved programme of work and estimated additional requirements

3. It is assumed that the meetings of existing committees referred to in paragraph 1 above scheduled for 1992 and 1993 will be cancelled by the Economic and Social Council, with the exception of the sixth session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy which was scheduled for the first part of February 1992 and effectively took place at that time. It is also assumed that the new Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the restructured Committee on Natural Resources would meet during the current biennium, while the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development would meet during the biennium 1994-1995.

4. In accordance with the practice for other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development would be entitled to travel but not a daily subsistence allowance. The related costs for a session to be held during the current biennium are estimated at $175,000. These requirements would be more than offset by a provision of $406,000 made under section 18, Centre for Science and Technology for Development, for travel of experts of subsidiary bodies of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

5. Members of the Committee on Natural Resources would be entitled to travel and a daily subsistence allowance. The related requirements would amount to $147,000. No provision has been made under section 14, Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, for expenses of the members of the current Committee on Natural Resources owing to the fact that they are representatives of Governments.

6. With regard to conference-servicing, the full cost for the session of the new Commission on Science and Technology for Development is estimated at $496,000. For the restructured Committee on Natural Resources, the full cost is also estimated at $496,000. In the biennium 1992-1993, programme budget provision has been made in section 32, Conference services, for the servicing of all meetings included in the calendar of meetings and conferences, including the sessions of the current committees which would be restructured under the terms of the draft resolution. On that basis, the conference-servicing requirements for the restructured bodies would be met from within the existing appropriation under section 32.

7. The programme budget implications resulting from the restructuring of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

8. Thus, the estimated requirements of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Committee on Natural Resources, as compared to the provisions made in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, would be as follows:

	Commission on Science and Technology for Development (section 18)	Committee on Natural Resources (section 14)	Total
A. Travel of participants			
Estimated requirements	175 000	147 000	322 000
Provision made in 1992-1993 programme budget	406 000	-	406 000
Total	(231 000)	147 000	(84 000)
B. Conference-servicing requirements on a full-cost basis	496 000	496 000	992 000

C. Summary

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/46/L.57, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of $147,000 would be required under section 14, Department of Technical Cooperation for Development. On the other hand, it is also estimated that the existing appropriation under section 18, Centre for Science and Technology for Development, could be reduced by $231,000. It is proposed to reflect such changes in the first performance report of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

Annex

Conference-servicing requirements at full cost for new structure

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(a)	Commission on Science and Technology for Development		
	Pre-session documentation (250 pages: A,C,E,F,R,S)	292 100	
	Meeting servicing (20 meetings: A,C,E,F,R,S)	105 900	
	In-session documentation (50 pages: A,C,E,F,R,S)	61 000	
	Post-session documentation (32 pages: A,C,E,F,R,S)	37 000	
	Total		496 000
(b)	Committee on Natural Resources		
	Pre-session documentation (250 pages: A,C,E,F,R,S)	292 100	
	Meeting servicing (20 meetings: A,C,E,F,R,S)	105 900	
	In-session documentation (50 pages: A,C,E,F,R,S)	61 000	
	Post-session documentation (32 pages: A,C,E,F,R,S)	37 000	
	Total		496 000